THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Duty on gold imports has been increased from 2% to 4% with effect from 17.3.2012, and there is no proposal to further hike the duty on gold imports.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of the (a) above.

Declaring tea as national drink

4354. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representation from a joint forum of Assam Tea Planters Association (ATPA), North East Tea Association (NETA) and Bharat Chai Parishad (BCP) with an appeal to declare tea as a National drink of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status;

(c) whether Government proposes to declare tea as a National drink of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it is likely to be happen; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor along with the criterion fixed for declaring particular item with national status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (e) The representation received from the joint forum of Assam Tea Planters Association (ATPA), North Eastern Tea Association (NETA) and Bharatiya Chai Parishad (BCP) has appealed for declaring tea as a national drink of India as it is consumed by large sections of people and this would also contribute to its brand building exercise. There is no fixed criteria for according national status to any particular product/commodity. However, a proposal to declare tea as the national drink of India was earlier examined during 2006 in consultation with the Central Ministries/Departments concerned and the States/UTs. The matter was not pursued further as objections were raised by some of the State Governments and it was felt that coffee is a competing beverage and both have respective market shares and declaring one particular beverage as a 'national drink' will likely be at the cost of the other.

Determining minimum price for green leaf tea

4355. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to determine the minimum price for green leaf tea produced by small tea growers of Assam and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of production of green leaf tea by small tea growers in Assam including total number of small tea growers for last three years indicating criterion followed towards fixation of price against green leaf tea by manufacturer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) For ensuring an equitable sharing of sale price of made tea between the small growers and the manufacturers, a Price Sharing Formula (PSF) has been notified by the Tea Board. The PSF stipulated by the Tea Board is worked out after factoring in the cost of producing green tea leaf by the small growers; cost of manufacturing in the bought leaf factories; and the out-turn percentage (*i.e.*, conversion of green tea leaf into made tea). The PSF varies from region to region in the country and is about 65: 35 on an average. As per this formula, sale price of made tea has to be shared between the growers and the factories in the ratio prescribed for each tea growing State. The ratio is 65:35 in Assam and 58:42 in West Bengal.

(c) The details of number of small growers, area owned by them and the green leaf production in Assam are as under:

Number of Small Growers	Area Under Tea (in Acres)	Production (Kg Green Leaf)
68,459	1,20,000.75	3,96,574,417

The criterion followed towards fixation of price is indicated in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question above.

SEZs turned into real estate business

4356. SHRI ANIL DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have become real estate business in the country particularly in Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;

(c) what action the Ministry is taking to de-reserve the SEZ land;

(d) whether it is a fact that compensation for the land acquired from farmers has not been paid at market prices; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?